



## FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "The Search for Fulfillment" Colossians 1:9-14

No. 5026

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It is ironic that a "growing vanguard of society perceives what Christianity calls the 'good life' to be a threat to self-fulfillment" (Carl F.H. Henry) because God made people to be fulfilled, and only He can make it happen.

### I. Fulfillment Through Purposefulness. vv. 9, 10a

- A. The knowledge of God's will.
  - 1. Full knowledge – "*Epignosis*."
  - 2. Filled with this knowledge.
  - 3. Applied through spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- B. A life worthy of the Lord.
  - 1. Live a life – walking.
  - 2. Worthily – remembering your status before Him.
- C. Pleasing Him in every way.
  - 1. Desire to please.
  - 2. The One to please.

### II. Fulfillment Through Fruitfulness. v. 10b

- A. Fruitfulness as productivity.
  - 1. External evidence of internal life.
  - 2. Good works as evidence of true faith.
- B. Fruitfulness as progress.
  - 1. Progressive discovery of God.
  - 2. Progressive devotion to God.

### III. Fulfillment Through Powerfulness. v. 11

- A. The extent of power.
  - 1. Strengthened with all power.
  - 2. According to His glorious might.
- B. The expression of power.
  - 1. The power of endurance – response to circumstances.
  - 2. The power of patience – restraint of self.
  - 3. The power of joy – not stoic but Christian.

### IV. Fulfillment Through Thankfulness. vv. 12-14

- A. Thankfulness for qualification.
  - 1. To enjoy inheritance.
  - 2. To be a saint in light.
- B. Thankfulness for emancipation.
  - 1. Rescue operation.
  - 2. Dominion of darkness.
- C. Thankfulness for situation.
  - 1. Member of the kingdom.
  - 2. King is "Son he loves."
- D. Thankfulness for redemption.
  - 1. Freedom from sin's power.
  - 2. Forgiveness of sin's record.
  - 3. Remembrance of redemption's cost.

"If it is fulfillment that we seek, let it be found in a full understanding and acceptance of God's will, a life filled with loving devotion to Him and fully involved in doing good, all this out of a full heart."